



VOL. XXXIII. No. 10,269.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

CONVICTION OF THE TICHBORNE CLAIMANT.

HE IS FOUND GUILTY OF PERJURY AND SENTENCED TO FOURTEEN YEARS' PENAL SERVITUDE.

LONDON, Saturday, Feb. 28, 1874.

The trial of the Tichborne claimant on charges of perjury committed during the trial for the possession of the estate, which has been in progress upward of 30 days, was brought to a close this morning, and resulted in the conviction of the accused. The jury, after being out a short time, brought in a verdict of guilty of all the charges, and the claimant was sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude. There is great excitement over the verdict, and "extra" editions of the papers are being issued by the press.

After the verdict was announced the claimant expressed a desire to address the court, but the Lord Chief-Justice refused permission. He maintained his usual composure when the sentence was pronounced. He shook hands with Dr. Kenney, his counsel, and then taken from the court-room by a skeleton-driven cab, placed in a private carriage, and rapidly driven to Newgate, much to the disappointment of an immense, though orderly, crowd which gathered outside to see him pass.

LONDON, Monday, March 3-4 a. m.

It is asserted that Dr. Kenney, counsel for the Tichborne claimant, will move for a new trial, on the ground that the jury were misdirected by the Chief-Justice in his summing up.

THE HISTORY OF THE TICHBORNE IMPOSTURE—THE BASIS OF THE CLAIMANT'S CASE.

Roger Tichborne, whom Arthur Orton has been convicted of personating, was the eldest son of James Tichborne, and was heir to the title and estates of his uncle, Sir Edward, who had added the name of Daubigny to that of Tichborne. He was a youth of weak character and moderate intelligence. He was educated first under French tutors and afterward by the Jesuits at Stonyhurst. He entered the British army at an early age, and remained three years in active service. His home being unhappy, he resided occasionally with his mother, the baroness. Sir Edward had one daughter, Miss Kate Daubigny, between whom and young Roger a deep and lasting attachment grew up. Sir Edward and Lady Daubigny, however, disapproved of the intimacy, and the baroness, it is said, became the victim of the intemperance habits of her nephew. It was, however, finally agreed that the couple should separate for a year or two to test the strength of their affection. Chastened at this arrangement, Roger threw up his commission in the army and sailed for South America. He arrived at Valparaiso in June, 1853, and after visiting several South American cities he embarked April 30, 1854, at Rio Janeiro in the ship *Bella* for New-York, intending, doubtless, to return promptly to England, as he had learned that his uncle was dead and his father had succeeded to the title and estates of the *Bella*, there is now no reason to doubt that he was lost at sea with all on board. The vessel in which he left England, was accordingly duly proved, and on his father's death the inheritance duly passed to his younger brother Alfred, who, also dying in the beginning of 1865, left a posthumous son to enjoy the baronetcy and estates.

The mother, Lady Tichborne, however, persisted in believing that her son still lived; she caused advertisements to be inserted in English and Australian papers offering a reward for any tidings of him. One of these advertisements seems to have incited the person who has just been convicted to put forward his claims to be regarded as Roger Tichborne. This man who is now virtually adjudged to be Arthur Orton was then (1864) residing at Wagon Works, in Australia, where, under the name of Thomas Castro, he carried on the business of a butcher. Orton became acquainted with a sort of attorney named Gibbs, who was correspondent of one Cabitt who had a mining-friends agency in Sydney. Lady Tichborne had got into correspondence with Cabitt relative to her son, but to no effect until Gibbs wrote from Wagon Works to Cabitt to say that he had "spotted" the missing man. He was "spotted" by Gibbs on account of having the initials "R. C. T." cut upon his pipe. Orton had also cut these initials on match-pieces and benches, and when observed by Gibbs was, or affected to be, very much annoyed. Gratified at having, as he supposed, found the lost heir, Cabitt communicated with Lady Tichborne, who afterward wrote direct to, as she supposed, her son, begging him to return to England. While hesitating to leave Australia, Orton fell in with Gullifoy, who had been a gardener at Tichborne Park, and with Andrew Begle, the valet of the late Sir Edward Daubigny. He gave them a great deal of family history from these men, and feeling assured that there were no serious obstacles to acquiring the Tichborne baronetcy and estates, he sailed for England, accompanied by Gullifoy and Begle. He arrived in London on the afternoon of Christmas Day, 1865. His first visit was to the well-known locality of Wapping, where he made inquiries relative to the Ortons. After being about a week in England he felt equal to seeing Lady Tichborne, who was in Paris, impatiently expecting him. He reached that city, accompanied by an attorney and friend, at 9 o'clock at night, but deferred his visit to his mother-in-law. Next day he was unwell, and sent for her to come to him. He then, it is alleged, went to bed, where he awaited her. What took place at the interview has never been made public, but the result was that Lady Tichborne accepted Orton as her son and made an allowance to him for the support of his family.

Returning to London, the claimant announced himself as Sir Roger Charles Tichborne, and at once instituted proceedings in Chancery for the possession of the estates. Acting with extraordinary efficiency, he traveled through the country, collecting witnesses, and gathering information respecting Tichborne affairs. The family failed to recognize him, but he found at length among persons who were connected in various ways with the Tichborne family, with others who were familiar with Lord Tichborne, and with others residing at Sir Edward Daubigny's or serving in the army. In March, 1871, Lady Tichborne died, and the claimant was thus deprived of pecuniary support and of the most important witness of all. He did not, however, shrink from the ordeal which awaited him. The civil suit to recover possession of the property began May 10, 1871, and continued until March in the following year. The claimant was examined and his evidence was sustained by several witnesses of unimpeachable character. His plausible testimony was, however, overthrown by the long succession of witnesses for the defense who pronounced him to be an impostor. The decisive evidence against him was evidently that of Lord Belvoir who swore that Roger Tichborne was deeply tattooed on the arm, and that the (Lord Belvoir) had done the tattooing. The claimant had been physically examined previously, and was known to have no such marks on his person. The claimant's case immediately collapsed. The jury said they had heard enough evidence, and his counsel elected to be committed. The Lord Chief-Justice immediately issued a warrant for Orton's arrest for perjury, and in January, 1873, the trial which ended in his conviction began.

FIRE IN PANAMA.

THE LOSS REPORTED TO BE \$1,000,000—MOST OF IT COVERED BY INSURANCE.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 21.—There was a very serious fire in Panama on the 19th, which consumed the greater portion of the city. Among the buildings burned were the Grand Hotel, the City Saloon, and the bank. The loss is roughly estimated at \$1,000,000, most of which is covered by insurance. No further details are received.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE FIRE.

Several telegrams have been received from Panama, via Jamaica, by merchants in this city, which fall, however, except in a single instance, to give any information regarding the extent of the recent conflagration. Owing to the lack of telegraphic communication between Batabano and Havana, there can be no certainty as to the date of the fire. The following telegraph has been received by Messrs. Ribon & Munoz:

"Our property destroyed. Insured. No losses." Messrs. L. E. Amick & Co. have received two telegrams from the correspondents, informing them that their places of business have been destroyed, but being fully insured, they have suffered no losses. The stores of these correspondents, Messrs. Ehrman & Lambergh, are under the Grand Hotel, which is situated on the Plaza de la Catedral, and therefore it may be concluded that the hotel has been destroyed. Judging from the situation of the houses of those by whom the other telegrams have been sent, and who

CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

THE APPROACHING MEETING OF PARLIAMENT—THE EXPENSES OF THE ASHANTIE WAR.

LONDON, Monday, March 2-4 a. m.

It is said that the new Parliament immediately after assembling will adjourn for a fortnight or three weeks.

The Queen's speech will probably contain a recommendation for a grant of money for the relief of the sufferers by the famine in Bengal.

The Treasury Office is preparing an exact account of the expenses of the Ashantie war, to be included in the forthcoming Budget.

THE CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN.

GEN. MORIONES UNABLE TO FORCE THE CARLISTS FROM THEIR INTRENCHMENTS BEFORE BILBAO—THE PRESIDENT ARRANGING TO GO TO THE NORTH.

MADRID, Saturday, Feb. 28, 1874.

A telegraphic dispatch has been received at the War Office from Gen. Moriones, stating that he has been unable to force the Carlists from their intrenchments before Bilbao, and that his own advanced line has been broken by the insurgents. He asks for reinforcements and the appointment of his successor. He still occupies Somorrostro, Oñate, Muro, Poveda, and Miquica. It is reported that he lost 3,000 men killed and wounded.

Ampesta, a town on the river Ebro, 47 miles south-west of Tarragona, has been captured by the Carlists. Señor Serrano has been declared President of the Republic of Spain, and Señor Zabala, Minister of War, is appointed President of the Council of Ministers. President Serrano and Admiral Topete, Minister of Marine, have gone to Santander. Señor Zabala will act as President during the absence from the capital of Señor Serrano.

BAYONNE, Saturday, Feb. 28, 1874.

The Carlist forces have occupied the City of Tolosa, in Guipuzcoa, and Andoain, a small town in Biscay, near San Sebastian.

Typhus fever and small-pox are ravaging Bilbao.

The fall of Bilbao is imminent. The foreign Consuls have left the city. Don Carlos and staff have been in the vicinity since the 23d of February.

MADRID, March 1, 1874.

Gen. Loma has arrived at San Sebastian. Gen. Rivera has been wounded.

THE INSURRECTION IN CHINA.

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT CANNOT PROTECT FOREIGNERS AT TIENTSIN.

HONG KONG, Friday, Feb. 27, 1874.

It is reported that the Chinese Government has informed the foreign residents of Peking that it cannot guarantee the safety of the lives of foreigners residing at Tientsin, and the naval authorities have been requested to send war vessels to Tientsin to insure their protection.

THE IRISH ELECTIONS.

INCEPTION AND PROGRESS OF THE HOME RULE MOVEMENT—REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE POPULAR CANDIDATES—THE IRISH IN ENGLAND SUPPORTING THE MOVEMENT.

The recent elections in Ireland have resulted in a great national triumph, 99 Home Rulers having been elected—a gain of about 25 on the number in the late Parliament. They have also elicited an expression of the popular will which renders the victory all the more significant. The Home Rule movement, which has prospered so well, succeeded the agitation for amnesty to the political prisoners concerned in the revolutionary movement of 1865. Its leaders asserted that Irish interests were neglected in the British Parliament, and that the progress of the country was impeded for want of domestic legislation. They convened their own legislative assembly for Ireland corresponding in its functions to a great extent with those of the State Legislatures in this country, recommending the care of imperial affairs to the British Parliament. The movement received the support of the national press, and was guided and sustained by many able men, representing the various shades of political and religious opinion in Ireland, the most prominent being Isaac Butt, O'Neill Daint, John Martin, the Rev. J. A. Galbraith, J. P. O'Connell, Mitchell Henry, Sir John Gray, the O'Connells, Mr. P. J. Smyth, Capt. J. P. Nolan, Capt. King Harman, and W. Shaw. These include men of remarkable ability, extensive experience in public affairs, and adventurous careers. The people had been, mainly through their efforts, thoroughly aroused to the importance of the Home Rule question since Parliament was dissolved, but little progress had been made in organizing them for an electoral campaign. Their ardor, however, made up for the want of organization, and in nearly every county and borough Home Rulers were nominated. Perfect indifference was manifested all the time for English parties or questions, and Home Rule at once became the paramount issue. Candidates were called upon to declare their views on that measure, and their willingness to support it, irrespective of their relations with the Liberal or Conservative parties. The triumph which followed at the polls has been greater than the most sanguine of the Home Rule party could have expected. Home Rule will be elected in the next Parliament, including 99 Home Rulers. When the last mail left, 91 of the 105 members representing Ireland had been elected, and of these 47 were avowed Home Rulers. Their names and the constituencies they represent are as follows:

Benson, A. Swanston; Carlow (borough), H. O. Lewis; Clare Co., Sir Coleman O'Loughlin and Lord Conyngham; Connel, —; Monaghan (city), J. P. O'Connell; Cork (city), J. P. O'Connell; Dublin (city), J. P. O'Connell; Dundalk, P. Callan; Dungannon, J. O'Connell; Ennis, Capt. Blackmore; Kildare, Capt. Blackmore; Kilkenny, J. P. O'Connell; Limerick, J. P. O'Connell; Longford, J. P. O'Connell; Mayo, G. E. Browne and P. Tighe; Meath, —; Ennis and John Martin; New Ross, —; Roscommon, J. P. O'Connell; Sligo, J. P. O'Connell; Wicklow, J. P. O'Connell; Wexford, J. P. O'Connell.

Twenty of the above-named are new members, and have invariably been elected over supporters of Mr. Gladstone, who were either opposed to the Home Rule cause or disposed to give it but a lukewarm support. The new members include several men who have been very prominent in Irish politics, and have been noted for their hostility to British rule. The majority in favor of the National candidates were very large, indicating a greater change in popular sentiment than the number elected would denote. This was most apparent in the large cities and counties, where the voters seem in most cases to have all gone one way.

THE TROUBLES IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

SURRENDER OF COMAYAGUA—THE PRESIDENT OF SALVADOR WATCHING EVENTS IN HONDURAS.

PANAMA, Feb. 16.—President Areas, after being besieged in Comayagua, the capital of Honduras, by the united forces of Salvador and Guatemala, capitulated on the 13th of January. He was made prisoner along with Señor De Gál, his Minister. There was much bloodshed before the city surrendered. The besieged were also suffering from want of water. The conditions

WASHINGTON.

THE DISTRICT IRREGULARITIES.

AN ORDER FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ARMY—GENERAL WILLIAMS' PROPERTY—ILLEGAL ASSESSMENTS UPON PROPERTY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The members of the Committee on the District Investigation have been studying up the whole subject committed to them, and many facts connected with the irregular expenditure of money have been called to the attention of individual members. The following are specimens of a class. In reply to a letter addressed to Gov. Shepherd in October last, an order was issued reading as follows:

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. }
WASHINGTON, Oct. 14, 1873.

GENTLEMEN: You are hereby requested to grade and fix the property of Attorney-General Williams to the satisfaction of Mr. Williams. This work must be commenced at once and finished without delay. By order of the Board. Very respectfully,

CLEMENT HILL, General Inspector.

The work in this case was done by Riley and Clarke, and was for grading inside of private lines of property, and not for streets. The Board of Public Works paid on this \$2,139. Of this, part was charged to an alley in the rear of the property, part to an avenue where these contractors never worked, and, in fact, to the grading of a square two streets away from the property. The cellar of the house, as stated to members of the Committee, was dug by public teams and workmen. Besides, work to the amount of \$1,892 was done by these contractors on the same property under the above order, which still remains unpaid. These contractors also filled up a certain lot for which Dr. Blake, a member of the Board of Public Works, is the agent, at a cost of \$1,153. This was paid in certificates and charged to an avenue where these contractors never worked.

Testimony has also been offered to show that grading and sodding has also been done around the property of two Senators. An assessment upon one square has been discovered where the cost, as shown by the Auditor's figures, was \$4,000, and the assessments were \$10,000, or \$6,000 above the amount paid by the Board. Two cases have been ascertained where improvement certificates for large amounts were issued against property of prominent citizens and sold in New-York, when the assessments on some of the property had been almost entirely paid here.

GOV. SHEPHERD'S REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE—THE ORIGINAL CONTRACTS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, WITH THE MEASUREMENTS AND VOUCHERS—THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Gov. Shepherd has replied to the interrogatories propounded by the Committee to investigate the affairs of the District of Columbia. The papers include the original contracts made by the Board of Public Works, numbering 1,622, together with the original measurements and vouchers, numbering 10,537.

In answer to a question as to the indebtedness of the old corporations of Washington and Georgetown and the Levy Court when the new Government went into effect, it is stated at \$5,526,636. The bonded debt of the District of Columbia on Jan. 1, 1874, was \$5,527,593. The present assessed value of property is \$26,443,072, as against \$19,997,454 in 1871.

In reply to the question, What amount, if any, does the District Government estimate ought to be paid by the United States for the improvements of public property made by the District Government? The answer is that the Board of Public Works, in their report to the President dated Nov. 1 last, estimated that individual citizens had expended the aggregate of \$4,000,379. This, however, is a small portion of the sum actually due by the Government on account of expenditures made by citizens in their corporate capacity for the improvement of the streets and thoroughfares of other parts of the District. It appears from the statement of the Register that from 1862 to 1871, when the new Government went into operation, that \$1,199,432 had been expended by the citizens under the old corporations for public improvements. The expenditures of the Board of Works since the creation of the District Government have been on streets and avenues \$15,662,638. But the amount expended by citizens since 1862, \$4,760,117. The amount expended by the United States during the same period, on streets and avenues, \$4,676,506, showing an excess of expenditures by citizens over the Government, on the improvement of streets and avenues and roads, nine-tenths of which are used absolutely by the Government, of \$23,243,411. It is shown that the real estate held by the United States in the District of Columbia fully equals, if it does not exceed in value, that owned by citizens.

The appropriation for the Fire Department by the District Government last year was \$165,416. Congress has rendered no aid to this service, notwithstanding the large number and great value of the Government buildings in the district. The only aid granted by Congress in defraying the current expenses of the District is in the appropriation toward the support of the police, and it is hoped they will adopt a similar course toward the schools, Fire Department, and the lighting of the streets.

It is suggested by the Governor that authority be given for funding the outstanding bonds into one consolidated loan bearing a fair rate of interest, and that a committee personally visit and inspect the various district offices and the improvements, in order that they may see for themselves the operations of the one and the extent and value of the other. The Governor states that he had effected a negotiation for a loan based upon tax lien certificates sufficient to pay the salaries of the school teachers and members of the Police and Fire Departments, but owing to the grave and unfounded imputations of the memorialists affecting the District Government, the realization of the loan was deferred.

Referring to the sewer certificates, the Governor incloses the opinion of Messrs. Cushing and Black to show their legality and as being in the nature of assessment certificates, and therefore forming no part of the indebtedness of the District Government. The report of the Treasurer of the Board of Public Works shows that the assets of the Board are at \$4,760,117, and the total liabilities at \$4,652,934. This is exclusive of the amount due by the United States Government for improvements of their property. The total amount of certificates of settlement issued is \$17,846,654; for filling purposes in the prosecution of special improvements done under contract, \$12,294,094; for special improvements outside of contracts, including material furnished, not included in measurement, \$2,655,460; on account of miscellaneous expenditures other than special improvements, and payable by special appropriation, \$1,329,010; on account of contingent expenses, pay of employees, etc., \$998,011; on account of water fund, \$709,077.

The answers of Gov. Shepherd cover from 1,600 to 2,000 pages of manuscript and includes replies to all the points of inquiry.

SATURDAY'S SESSION OF THE HOUSE.

ONE PRIVATE BILL PASSED AND TWO POLITICAL SPEECHES DELIVERED—FILLBUSTERING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE—THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF MR. BROWN OF KENTUCKY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 1.—One private bill passed and two political speeches delivered were the not results of Saturday's session of the House. There might have been more work done, or at least more speeches delivered, had it not been for a little bad feeling between the Democrats and the Republicans, a thing of very rare occurrence in this non-partisan session, which resulted in an hour's filibustering. The trouble began on Friday. After the House had agreed to adjourn until Monday, with the expectation that the customary Saturday session for debate only would be subsequently ordered by unanimous consent, it was reported on the Republican side that Mr. Beck had a speech ready to deliver which the Democrats intended to use as a campaign document in New-Hampshire. Some one thought it would be a smart piece of strategy to prevent him from making the

speech, by objecting to the Saturday session. After objection had been made the Democrats managed to reconsider the motion for an adjournment to Monday, so that a business session was the only thing in order for Saturday.

Nobody was much disposed to vote, however, and after one private bill had been passed, Mr. Beck said that his colleagues, Mr. John Young Brown, was obliged to go home, and wanted to make a speech he had prepared. The Republicans refused to go into Committee of the Whole for general debate, whereupon Mr. Randall declared that his side of the House would waste the day. Fillbustering began on both sides, but, after a time, better senses prevailed, and Mr. Brown was allowed to free his mind of an hour's speech against the dominant party. He was first elected to Congress before the war, and had waited a few weeks before taking his seat because he had not reached the constitutional age. After the war he was again elected, but was refused admission on the ground of disloyalty, which was proved by a letter which he wrote in 1861. He subsequently had his disabilities removed, and reappeared in Washington as a member of the present Congress.

After he had finished his speech yesterday Mr. Rainey tried to create some kind of a disloyal letter read, which cost him his seat in the XXXIXth Congress. In a House which contains nearly a score of ex-Confederate generals and colonels, a letter written at the outbreak of the Rebellion avowing honest hostility to the Union could not be expected to create a sensation. It fell flat, and neither disturbed Mr. Brown's equanimity nor destroyed the effect of his speech.

THE ARMY REDUCTION BILL.

A RADICAL MEASURE OF REFORM—DOUBTS AS TO ITS PASSAGE.

[FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The House Committee on Military Affairs have nearly completed their army reduction bill. It is so radical and trenchant a measure that its passage is exceedingly doubtful, but it contains provisions for reform in army organization, and retrenchment in the enormous expenses of the military establishment, that ought to commend it to the good sense of the House. The reductions proposed by the bill in the line of the army have already been stated. The number of regiments of infantry is to be 20 instead of 25; of artillery four instead of five, and of cavalry eight instead of ten. The total number of enlisted men is fixed as provided in the pending Army Appropriation bill at 25,000. Officers rendered supernumerary by the consolidation of regiments are not to be mustered out, but are to be retained in service and absorbed into the remaining regiments as vacancies occur; and to facilitate the process of absorption a premium of a year's full pay is offered to all officers who resign. Thus far the bill only seeks to effect a reduction of force according to the method followed when the army was cut down in 1860.

In the provisions relating to the Staff corps, however, an entirely new line of legislation is proposed. Instead of increasing the strength of these corps and allowing promotion in them, as urgently recommended by their chiefs, the bill contemplates their gradual extinction, and seeks to hasten the process by offering to their officers the same inducement to resign held out to officers of the line. The intention of the Committee appears to be to substitute the Prussian Staff system for our own, which is copied chiefly from that of Great Britain. Under the Prussian system the staff is recruited by detail from the officers of the line who display marked ability, and who are returned to their regiments after a certain period of staff duty. The effect is that the staff gets the service of the best talent in the army, and the line, in return, profits by the experienced training such officers get while on the staff. In our army the staff corps are separate and exclusive organizations, having little association or sympathy with the line, and when once an officer gets admission to one of these corps he remains there for life, no matter how little aptitude he may display for the duties.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

GEN. BUTLER EXULTANT.

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1874.

Gen. Butler brought his protest, the new Collector of Boston, on the floor of the House yesterday, and exhibited him to the members. He had to violate the rules to get Simmons past the doorkeepers, but the temptation to celebrate his triumph in a way that would bring it under the eyes of the reporters in the gallery was too strong for him to hesitate at such a trifling obstacle. He marched Simmons in, and got up a reception in one corner of the Hall, introducing such members as came along, to the hero of the day. Simmons, to do him justice, bore his honors with commendable modesty, and exhibited a good deal of *sang froid*. Mr. Butler, on the contrary, was exultant. His face beamed with an expression of self-satisfaction and triumph, and he was a curious study to observe. After awhile he took Simmons around to where J. M. S. Williams sat writing and introduced him to the two. Mr. Williams, who had joined the Hoar brothers in the fight against Simmons's contention, was apparently delighted with this evidence of magnanimity, and shook hands warmly. Mr. Butler next started for Geo. F. Hoar with the same purpose, but Mr. Hoar got up and walked out of the hall. The Collector and his friends retired to an adjoining cloak-room, where such members as desired the honor were put through the formality of presentation.

A NOVEL PLAN FOR FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF CONGRESSMEN.

George W. Dean of New-York proposes the following bill for the compensation of Senators and Representatives in Congress:

Be it enacted, That Senators and Representatives shall receive compensation on and after the 4th day of March, 1875, as follows: When the balance of trade with foreign countries is against our people, each Senator shall receive \$1,000 and each Representative \$500 per annum, and when the balance of trade with foreign countries is in our people's favor each Senator shall receive \$10,000 and each Representative \$7,500 per annum. In determining the balance of trade, neither import nor coin shall be counted as an import or export.

The author adds the following suggestion:

In the language of the National Grange Constitution, "No people can ever become prosperous who are not self-sustaining. Our fertile soil, exhaustless natural wealth, abundant water power, and genial, salubrious climate avail us nothing if annually we expend millions for subsistence."

THREE UNPOPULAR NOMINATIONS.

The Senate has three nominations before them, which are subjects of much investigation by the committees to which they have been referred. First, the nomination of Gen. Van Buren to be Consul at Kanagawa. The Committee on Commerce have before them the voluminous report of Minister Jay, giving the particulars of the investigation of the affairs of Gen. Van Buren in connection with the American branch of the Vienna Exposition, the substance of which was published last Fall. The nomination of Gen. McCook to be Governor of Colorado, before the Committee on Territories, who have sent to the Territory for information, and third, the nomination of Sam. Hard to be Postmaster at Atlanta, Ga. This latter nomination is strongly contested. Mr. Hard is in Washington managing his interests.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1874.

It is stated at the Treasury Department that the prevailing idea that the Government has refunded several millions of dollars for duties collected on fruits and vegetables is a mistake. The whole amount paid back for such duties was \$1,372,282, and for this sum suits had to be brought and were pending in the courts when the decision was made.

The Secretary of the Treasury has directed the Assistant Treasurer at New-York to set \$3,000,000 gold for the month of March as follows: On the first and third Thursdays, each \$1,000,000; on the second and fourth Thursdays, each \$500,000.

THE SANBORN FRAUDS.

THE GREATEST CONSPIRACY OF THE DAY.

BUTLER, BUTLER, BLISS, RANFIELD, SAWYER, SANBORN, AND RICHARDSON INVOLVED IN IT—THE MACHINERY OF THE GOVERNMENT TREASURY, COURTS, AND REVENUE OFFICES WORKED IN THE INTEREST OF A CLIQUE TO DEPRIVE THE COUNTRY OF HALF ITS TAXES—IMPORTANT EXTRACTS FROM SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S REPORT.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress relative to the famous Sanborn and other contracts has at length been printed. It furnishes details hitherto unobtainable of what is now recognized as the greatest conspiracy to defraud the Government ever attempted. The official report does not tell the whole story, but it supplies missing links of what has been known for some time past, and the shameful history may now be briefly and clearly told in the light of these later revelations.

Into the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary Appropriation bill, approved by President Grant on May 8, 1873, there was smuggled a clause authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to employ not more than three persons as special agents to discover and collect any money, belonging to the United States, withheld by any person or corporation, upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary chose. The law as it stands gives him authority to pay any percentage to the agent from one to one hundred per cent as he may choose. The very same act and the very same clause of it appropriated \$4,800,000 for the pay of the regular Assessors and Collectors whose duty it was to discover and collect these very same moneys. Frederick A. Sawyer, formerly of Boston, then in the last year of his term as a Senator from South Carolina, conducted the swindle in the Senate; Gen. B. F. Butler smuggled it through the House in spite of serious opposition. Sawyer became Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and attested the first contract made under the bill; Butler furnished the man to carry out the scheme of plunder.

John D. Sanborn of Massachusetts had been a spy for Gen. Butler during the war. He was first awarded a contract by George Boutwell (though the document was signed by Richardson), then Secretary of the Treasury, by which agreement Sanborn was to receive 50 per cent of all moneys collected by him. Mr. Boutwell gave him also a written order in his own hand to all the assessors and collectors of the country, directing them to aid Sanborn in his work. Sanborn obtained information from these officers and lodged it with the Secretary of the Treasury, and from him obtained the exclusive right to collect the money due by the persons and corporations named by him. Sanborn, there is the strongest reason to believe, had copied every one of these names from the books of the regular assessors—he did not "discover" a single case. Many of the cases named in Sanborn's contract were in this city and State, and he requested George Bliss, Jr., United States District Attorney, to aid him in collecting the money, by bringing suit against those who refused to pay. Bliss delayed until, finally, he was directed to do so in an order signed, not by Mr. Boutwell, who seems to have disliked the responsibility, but by E. C. Ranfield, Solicitor of the Treasury. A great many suits have been threatened by Mr. Bliss, but none have been brought, as any suit in court would have exposed the whole conspiracy.

Sanborn has lodged in this way information against three classes of alleged delinquents, all of whose taxes the regular Revenue Collectors were required by their sworn duty to collect in the usual way. First, Mr. Sanborn has named 2,452 estates owing legacy and succession taxes, on 152 of which his receipts thus far have been \$173,103 27, with 2,300 still to hear from. Secondly, he has named 699 railroads which have not paid taxes upon dividends and interest paid upon bonds, and nineteen of them thus far have paid \$24,927 22, of which Sanborn gets one-half. Thirdly, he has obtained a contract for recovering taxes due from 22 distillers and 14 rectifiers of whiskey in this city alone, the information against whom was originally lodged by an informer in the office of District-Attorney Bliss, and this informer by this contract has been robbed of his moneys. The collections which he has contracts for and for making which he is to receive one-half, would have been made in the ordinary course of business by the collectors of revenue without other cost than their salaries. It will thus be seen that the whole machinery of the Government has been put at the disposal of Sanborn for the collection of taxes of which he can retain one-half.

The official report shows that he has thus far collected \$127,630 49, of which he retained \$123,335 15, leaving the work of one year and forty-eight days. The report does not show, what may yet prove to be the case, that as much, or five times as much more, has been collected and has not yet been turned into the Treasury.

Contracts were made with two other persons, Malcolm Campbell and John Clark of Philadelphia, but the first resigned early and the second does not appear to have been so successful as Mr. Butler's man, so that practically Sanborn has a monopoly of the business of collecting the back taxes due the United States.

With this brief history of the conspiracy the following important extracts from the report will be clearly understood.

LETTER OF THE SECRETARY.

The communication of Secretary Richardson forwarding the document to the House of Representatives is in the usual form with one exception. He takes special pains to assure the House that the Treasury Department knows nothing of the alleged indebtedness of the persons named in Sanborn's schedules. The following is the closing paragraph of the letter:

In justice to the persons whose names are included in the lists accompanying the several contracts of those who are alleged to be indebted to the Government on account of taxes or otherwise, and who have not been proceeded against, permit me to add that no evidence whatever of such indebtedness has been furnished to the Department. All that is known to the Department on the subject is what appears on said lists, which were necessary to be furnished in pursuance of the requirements of the first section of the act of May 8, 1873, viz: "That no person shall be employed under the provisions of this clause, who shall not have fully furnished a written statement under oath, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, of the character of the claim of which he proposes to recover or assist in recovering moneys for the United States, the laws by the violation of which the same have been withheld, and the name of the person, firm, or corporation having thus withheld such moneys," before the persons furnishing them could be employed.

I have the honor to be, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

SANBORN'S WHISKY CONTRACT.

The first information lodged by Sanborn was dated Aug. 13, 1873, and was against distillers, rectifiers, and distillers of whiskey in this city. How he came by the information has been known in this city for two years past, and a full history of the transaction was stated to the Editor of THE TRIBUNE in 1872, during the statement of the Presidential campaign of that year. It was stated with singular minuteness that an old informer, whose name it is not necessary to give, had lodged information against the firms named below for various violations of the Revenue laws. The estimate made claimed that the Government had been defrauded out of \$6,000,000 by the non-payment of the whisky tax and the illicit distillation of whiskey. The information was submitted to a conference at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, at which there were present Secretary of the Treasury Wm. A. Richardson, Assistant Secretary Frederick A. Sawyer, Gen. B. F. Butler, George Bliss, Jr., John D. Sanborn, and the informer. It was arranged, according to the report, the facts from which are stated from memory, that the informer should be paid \$75,000 in lieu of his moneys, and the matter be turned over to Sanborn. At the time this statement was submitted to THE TRIBUNE, (in October, 1873) the informer had been paid nothing, and offered his statement exposing the conspiracy for sale. It was not used at the time by THE TRIBUNE, because the truth of its statements could not then be sub-

stantiated. The actual facts of the conspiracy were not brought to light until the arrest a few weeks ago of Sanborn by District Attorney Tenney of Brooklyn.

The following is the list as submitted by Sanborn and published in the official report. Sanborn made no statement of the amount of tax due by these persons, but he was allowed 50 per cent of the gross sum for collection.

SCHEDULE OF CASES.

DISTILLERS.

East Twenty-fourth-st., New-York City, known as Hartley's distillery. Names of owners: John D. Hartley, Oliver, Edward M. Tyler, G. L. Drew, and Daniel Murray.

West Forty-second-st., New-York City, known as Eames & Ryan's distillery. Names of owners: Leopold Adler, Nicholas Henry, Fox & Heider, James & Connel,